

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

- 1 1. A distributed network comprising:
 - 2 a. a plurality of hosts each of which has a storage
 - 3 device and each of which may act as a client and a
 - 4 server;
 - 5 b. a file which is divided into a plurality of segments
 - 6 wherein each segment is transmitted to said storage
 - 7 devices of several of said hosts and stored in said
 - 8 storage device of said host;
 - 9 c. a shared communication channel to which each of said
 - 10 hosts is coupled whereby one of said host acting as a
 - 11 client requests that said hosts acting as servers and
 - 12 collectively send all of said segments to said
 - 13 requesting client so that said requesting client can
 - 14 gather said segments together in order for said
 - 15 segments to self-assemble and generate a single copy of
 - 16 said file.

1 2. A distributed network according to claim 1 wherein at
2 least one host has a global list with entries each of which
3 contains all the necessary information about said file.